

Message Text

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DEPT PASS AID, NSF, EPA, USDA, COMM/NBS, DOI/SEW,DOE,NAS

ROME FOR ERROS

E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: USEGJC, TGEN
SUBJ:US EGYPT JOINT WORKING GROUP ON TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH &
DEVELOPMENT (JWGTRD) -MTG. REPORT.

1. SUMMARY:THE JWGTRD HELD ITS FIFTH MTG. IN CAIRO FEB.11-12,1978.
MTG. CH-CHAired BY MINISTER OF HEALTH, DR. IBRAHIM BADRAN,
ASSISTED BY DR.HASSAN ISMAIL, PRES. EMERITUS CAIRO UNIV., AND DEP.
ASST SEC OSWALD GANLEY, (OES). FOUR CABINET MINISTERS ATTENDED THE
OPENING SESSION. SOME 50 EGYPTIAN AND 20 US OFFICIALS, SCIENTISTS
AND RESEARCHERS PARTICIPATED MTG. WAS GENERALLY SUCCESSFUL AND
SHOWED CONTINUING GOE SUPPORT FOR JWGTRD MECHANISM (COUPLED WITH
SOME DISSATISFACTION OVER PAST COORDINATION AND FOLLOW UP).
STRONG GOE INTEREST IN S&T AND US COOPERATION WAS EMPHASIZED BY
PRESENCE OF FIVE CABINETMINISTERS AT OPENING AND SOCIAL FUNCTIONS.
CHARGE GANLEY AND SELECTED GROUPS ALSOMET BRIEFLY WITH PRIME
MINISTER SALEM. GANLEY AND SCIATT HELD ADDITIONAL CONVERSATIONS WITH
MFA (SEPTel) END SUMMARY.

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2. BADRAN AND ISMAIL TO SOME EXTENT SHARED COORDINATING ROLE FOR
GOE; HOWEVER MINISTER WAS CLEARLY SENIOR PARTY, BOTH FOR HIS
PERSONAL ORGANIZING ROLE AND PROVISION OFADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
AND FOR HIS RANK. THIS WAS REFLECTED BY BADRAN'S SIGNING AGREED
MINUTES (AFTER A BIT OF ALPHONSE/GASTON ROUTINE WITH ISMAIL).
AS HAS BEEN NOTED, GOE SPENT CONSIDERABLETIME IN PREPARATIONS
FOR THIS MTG. BADRAN HIMSELF, PARTICIPATED FOR ALMOST FULL TWO

DAYS, DESPITE LACK OF SIGNIFICANT CONSIDERATION OF ANY MEDICAL ACTIVITIES. MIN STATE ABU TALEB ALSO FOLLOWED DISCUSSIONS CLOSELY; PARTICULARLY IN POLICY AND COORDINATION.

3. ALTHOUGH APPEARANCE OF FIVEMINISTERS; BADRAN, ABU TALEB, HILMY (ED & SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH), HILAL (PET.& INDUSTRY), SHOUKRY (AG.) WAS CEREMONIAL EXCEPT AS NOTED, MOST TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE STATEMENT SUPPORTIVE OF S&T COOPERATION AND TO THROW OUT SOME CHALLENGES TO EGYPTIAN SYSTEM; E.G. HILAL SUGGESTED THAT ADVANCEMENT IN UNIVERSITIES SHOULD BE BASED AT LEAST AS MUCH ON APPLIED AS BASIC RESEARCH. ABU TALEB SEEMS TO HAVE CONSIDERABLE RESPONSIBILITY IN COORDINATION OF S&T ACTIVITIES AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS. NOTABLY MISSING AMONG SENIOR GOE S&T REPRESENTATIVES WAS ACADEMY OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY PRES. ABU AL AZM. ACADEMY ITSELF WAS REPRESENTED AT LOW LEVEL. NAT. RESEARCH CENTER WAS REPRESENTED BY ITS PRESIDENT, DR. M. KAMEL.

4. DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD IN FIVE PANELS COVERING I.A., FOLLOWING:

A. POLICY COORDINATION - NOTED : (A) VALUE OF AN IMPROVED MECHANISM FOR ADMIN SUPPORT AND COORD; GOE IS RESPONSIBLE AND WILL INVESTIGATE ALTERNATIVES. (B) IMPORTANCE OF MUTUAL BENEFIT IN RESEARCH PROPOSALS W/O OVERLOOKING EGYPTS DEVELOPMENT PROCESS, (C) POSSIBLE ROLE OF JWGTRD IN INFORMATION SHARING AND PROPOSAL SYNCHRONIZATION. (D) IMPEDIMENTS CAUSED BY LACK OF GOE EXPERTISE IN PROPOSAL WRITING.
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B. S&T TRANSFER - (A) EMPHASIZED HIGH PRIORITY OF INSTRUMENTATION TECHNOLOGY, AND NEED FOR A(GOE) NATIONAL POLICY IN TECH. TRANSFER. (B) RECOMMENDED EST. SUB PANELS IN S&T INFO AND INSTRUMENT TECHNOLOGY.

C. AGRIC/ENVIRONMENT/ECOLOGY - NOTED SUCCESS OF ONGOING PROJECTS/ PLANS IN ANIMAL/POULTRY IMPROVEMENT, HORTICULTURE, IMPROVING CROP PRODUCTION IRRIGATION AND LAND RECLAMATION. SUCCESS OF PROGRAMS IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENDANGERED SPECIES AREA WAS RECOGNIZED.

D. BLDG. MATERIALS & TECHNOLOGY; TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS - DISCUSSED OLD AND NEW PROJECTS, SEVEN WERE ENDORSED FOR INITIATION, ALL HAVING BEEN PROPOSED AT EARLIER MTGS. EMPHASIS WAS GIVEN TO PROPOSED "IDENTIFICATION & EVALUATION OF MATERIALS FOR THE BLDG INDUSTRY" SUGGESTED FOR IMPLEMENTATION BY THE GEN ORGN FOR HOUSING, BLDG. & PLANNING RESEARCH (EGYPT) AND NBS (US). DEVELOPMENT OF A SURVEY PROJECTION METROLOGY WAS ENDORSED. THE CONTINUATION OF SUPPORT FROM APPROPRIATE SOURCE FOR SATISFACTORY PROJECTS NOW UNDERWAY WAS ALSO RECOMMENDED (C.F. GEN. ORGN FOR HOUSING BLDG. & PLANNING RESEARCH/LEHIGH UNIV., NSF FUNDED PROJECT). FYI-SUBJECT

MATTER AND PROPOSALS IN THIS PANEL CONTINUE TO BE PERHAPS MOST DIFFICULT TO ADDRESS ON OVERALL BASIS BECAUSE I.A.OF LACK OF CLEAR USG COUNTERPART FOR MANY AREAS OF BLDG. RESEARCH AND BECAUSE OFGOE DISAPPOINTMENT AT SLOW PACE OF DEVELOPMENT OF EARLIER PROPOSALS. END FYI.

E. INDUSTRY AND ENERGY - RECOMMENDED APPOINTMENT OF JWGTRD "ENERGY COORDINATORS", TO FACILITATE FURTHER DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF PROPOSALS. AREAS EMPHASIZED WERE NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY, HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS, AND PROBLEMS OF ELECT SYSTEM EQP. FURTHER CONTACT WAS ALSO SUGGESTED BETWEEN EGYPTIAN PETROLEUM RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND USG AGENCIES IN AREAS OF LUBE/FUEL OILS,

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PETROLEUM INFORMATION, PETRO PROTEINS AND PETRO POLLUTION.

5. THE JWGTRD TOOK NOTE OF THE SUCCESSFUL AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY/ NAT. RESEARCH CENTER WORKSHOP HELD NOV.1977 AND RECOGNIZED ITS VALUE AS A MODEL FOR FUTURE EFFORTS AND A SOURCE OF ACTIVITIES SUITABLE FOR FUTURE COOPERATION. IT ALSO NOTED THE INITIAL DISCUSSIONS UNDERWAY BETWEEN THE USG & GOE IN IMPLEMENTING THE LDC ENERGY PILOT PROGRAM.

6. COMMENT. GOE, AS USUAL SUBMITTED LARGE NUMBER OF SPECIFIC PROPOSALS OF VARYING COMPLETENESS AND ACCEPTABILITY. JWGTRD WHILE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PROJECT APPROVAL OR IMPLEMENTATION, SHOULD PLAY A ROLE IN DEFINING SECTOR GOALS IN S&T COOP. AND SYNCHRONIZING (RECOMMENDING IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES). IN PAST, GAP BETWEEN SUPERFICIAL PROPOSAL DISCUSSION AT MTG. AND DEVELOPMENT OF USEFUL PROPOSAL (OR SUGGESTION TO GOE TO DROP SUBJECT FROM THIS FORUM) HAS LED TO SOME DISSATISFACTION. JWGTRD COULD BENEFIT FROM SOME

MECHANISM TO GIVE AT LEAST PRELIMINARY FEEDBACK TO EGYPTIANS
GIVING GUIDANCE ON WHERE OR HOW TO PROCEED FURTHER. WE WILL WORK
WITH WHATEVER SUPPORT MECHANISM GOE COMES UP WITH TO IMPROVE COORD.;
HOWEVER ATTENTION OF US AGENCIES TO DEVELOPING APPROPRIATE
RESPONSES TO GOE TABLED PROPOSALS AND SUGGESTIONS WOULD BE HELPFUL.
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